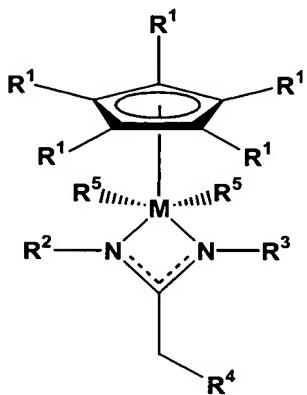


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An olefin polymerization catalyst comprising a pre-catalyst having the formula:



wherein M is Ti, Zr or Hf;

each R<sup>1</sup> is independently hydrogen or alkyl or two adjacent R<sup>1</sup> form an aryl group;

each R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted and is independently alkyl, cycloalkyl, SiX<sub>3</sub>, or aryl; or

one R<sup>1</sup> and one of R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>3</sup> are taken together to form an alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or alkylarylkyl bridge;

R<sup>4</sup> comprises alkyl, cycloalkyl, SiX<sub>3</sub>, aryl, BR<sup>6</sup><sub>3</sub> or a solid support;

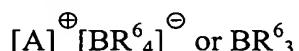
each R<sup>5</sup> is halo, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or arylalkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is optionally substituted phenyl;

B is the element boron; and

X is independently halo, alkyl, alkoxy or aryl.

2. A catalyst composition comprising the olefin polymerization catalyst of claim 1 and a co-catalyst of the formula:



wherein A<sup>⊕</sup> is a cationic Lewis or Brønsted acid.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein said co-catalyst is [PhNHMe<sub>2</sub>][B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub>].

4. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein said solid support is an organic polymer or inorganic oxide.

5. The catalyst of claim 4, wherein said polymer is a polystyrene, polyamide, or polysaccharide.

6. The catalyst of claim 4, wherein said inorganic oxide is a silica, alumina, titania, zirconia, or a combination thereof.

7. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein said aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, indenyl, phenanthrenyl, anthracenyl, fluorenyl, or biphenyl.

8. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein:  
said optional substituents on alkyl are alkoxy, amide, aryl, alkyl, halo, ketone, ester, aldehyde, cyano and nitro; and  
said optional substituents on aryl are alkoxy, amide, aryl, alkyl, halo, ketone, ester, aldehyde, cyano and nitro.

9. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein M is Zr.

10. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein each R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen.

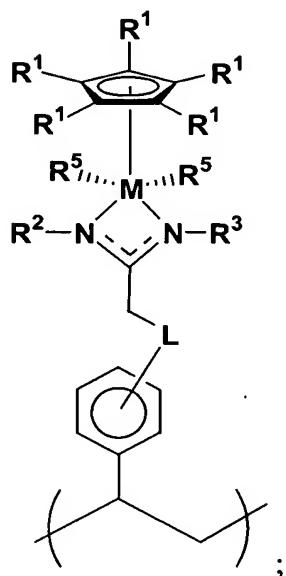
11. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein each R<sup>1</sup> is methyl.

12. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein said catalyst comprises about 0.1-10 mequiv/g of catalytic sites.

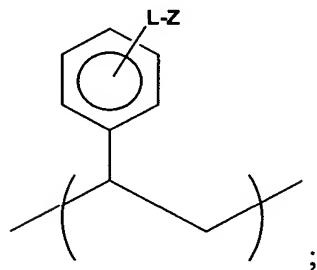
13. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein said pre-catalyst is a copolymer having the formula:

poly[A-*co*-B];

wherein unit A has the formula:



unit B has the formula:



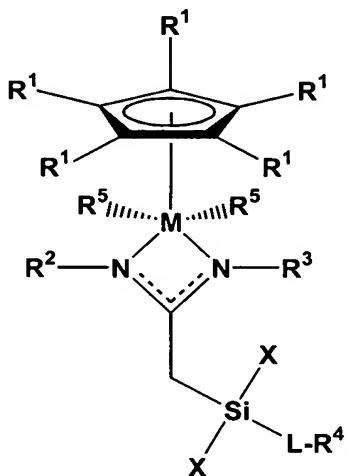
L is a linking group; and

Z is hydrogen, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkoxy.

14. The catalyst of claim 13, wherein L is sulfonyl, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkoxy, carbonyl or does not exist.

15. The catalyst of claim 13, wherein said unit A has a molar percentage in the range of about 50-80% and said unit B has a molar percentage in the range of about 20-50%.

16. The catalyst of claim 1, wherein said pre-catalyst has the formula:



wherein L is a linking group.

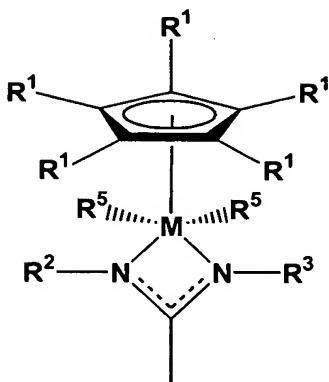
17. The catalyst of claim 16, wherein L is amino, epoxy, thio, alkyl, alkoxy or aryl.

18. The catalyst of claim 16 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is an inorganic oxide and L is epoxy.

19. The catalyst of claim 16, wherein said catalyst comprises about 0.1-10 mequiv/g of catalytic sites.

20. A process for preparing an olefin polymerization catalyst, comprising:

(a) deprotonating a metal acetamidinate having the formula:



wherein M is Ti, Zr or Hf;

each  $R^1$  is independently hydrogen or alkyl or two adjacent  $R^1$  form an aryl group;

each  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  is optionally substituted and is independently alkyl, cycloalkyl,  $SiX_3$ , or aryl; or

one  $R^1$  and one of  $R^2$  or  $R^3$  are taken together to form an alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or alkylarylalkyl bridge;

each  $R^5$  is halo, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or arylalkyl;

$X$  is independently halo, alkyl, alkoxy or aryl;

to form an intermediate; and

(b) contacting said intermediate with an electrophile to form a precatalyst.

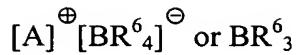
21. The process of claim 20, further comprising:

(c) reacting said pre-catalyst with an activating co-catalyst.

22. The process of claim 20, wherein said electrophile is electrophilic polystyrene.

23. The process of claim 20, wherein said electrophile is chloromethyl-substituted polystyrene, sulfonyl chloride-substituted polystyrene,  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  or  $SiX_3$ ; and  $X$  is independently halo, alkyl, alkoxy or aryl.

24. The process of claim 20, further comprising after (b):
  - (d) reacting said precatalyst with an inorganic oxide solid support.
25. The process of claim 20, wherein said inorganic oxide is a silica, alumina, titania, zirconia, or a combination thereof.
26. The process of claim 21, wherein said co-catalyst has one of the formulae:
$$[A]^{\oplus} [BR^6_4]^{\ominus} \text{ or } BR^6_3$$
wherein  $A^{\oplus}$  is a cationic Lewis or Brønsted acid;  
B is the element boron; and  
 $R^6$  is optionally substituted phenyl.
27. The process of claim 26, wherein said co-catalyst is  $[PhNHMe_2][B(C_6F_5)_4]$ .
28. The process of claim 20, wherein M is Zr.
29. The process of claim 28, wherein each  $R^1$  is methyl.
30. A process for preparing a polyolefin, comprising:  
reacting an olefin with an activated olefin polymerization catalyst composition, under conditions that result in the formation of a polyolefin;  
wherein said catalyst composition comprises the pre-catalyst of claim 1.
31. The process of claim 30, wherein said catalyst composition further comprises a co-catalyst having one of the formulae:



wherein  $A^{\oplus}$  is a cationic Lewis or Brønsted acid.

32. The process of claim 31, wherein said co-catalyst is  $[PhNHMe_2][B(C_6F_5)_4]$ .

33. The process of claim 30, wherein said olefin is ethene, propene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-heptene, 1-octene, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene, butadiene, isoprene, acrylonitrile, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride, vinyl fluoride, vinylidene chloride, N-vinyl pyrrolidone, 3-methylbutene, 3-methyl-1-pentene, vinylcyclohexene, vinylcyclobutane, vinylcyclopentane, vinylcyclooctane, 1-decene, enantiomerically pure  $\beta$ -citronellene, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-hexene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

34. The process of claim 30, wherein said olefin comprises a mixture of two or more monomers having vinyl unsaturation.